



Atty. Dkt. No. 026032-4853

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Kenneth Clark, et al.

Title: FLOOR CONSOLE

Appl. No.: 10/520,392

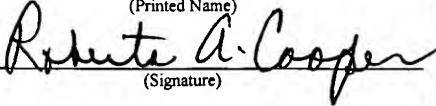
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Examiner: Kiran B. Patel

Art Unit: 3612

Confirmation No.: 5149

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service's "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
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AFFIRMATION OF ELECTION

and

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

This is in response to the Notice of Allowability mailed on May 1, 2006, wherein the Examiner, among other things, required affirmation of a telephone election and provided a Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

RESTRICTION/ELECTION REQUIREMENT

The Applicants hereby affirm the election of Figure 1-5 (Claims 1, 2, 4-16, and 18).

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In Section 9 of the Notice of Allowability, the Examiner provided the following statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for the allowance of the claims in this case, is the inclusion of the limitation “a first flexible member coupled to the first panel and to the second panel; a second flexible member coupled to the first panel and to the second panel, wherein a storage area is defined by the first panel, the second panel, the first flexible member, the second flexible member, and the base when the first panel and the second panel are rotated to the raised position; a module configured to be removably retained when being at least partially disposed in the storage area; wherein the floor console provides a low profile condition when the first panel and the second panel are in the lowered position and provides an additional storage area condition when the first panel and the second panel are rotated to the upright position” in the independent claim, in combination with the other recited limitations in claims supported by this application, which are not found in the prior art of record.

While the Applicants agree that the allowable claims recite a combination of subject matter that is patentable over the cited references, the Applicants do not necessarily agree with or acquiesce in the statement of reasons for allowance given by the Examiner. Moreover, the Applicants note that the recited subject matter as well as various other subject matter and/or combinations of subject matter may be patentable for other reasons than those given by the Examiner. The Applicants expressly reserve the right to set forth additional and/or alternative reasons for patentability and/or allowance in connection with the present Application or in any other future proceeding.


* * *

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid

amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 7/27/2006

By 

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